

OCT 12 2006

Application Serial No. 10/524,498
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2006PATENT
Docket: CU-4061REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated July 17, 2006, the Examiner states Claims 1-15 are pending, Claims 1-3 and 7-15 are rejected, and the Claims 4-6 are objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Garrison (US 5,020,705). Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrou (US 5,178,306) in view of Garrison. Claims 4-6 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicant considers that the amendments to the claims overcome these rejections.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to claim a U-shaped pacifier strap comprising a fastening bracket for connecting a pacifier strap to the clip. Claim 1 is now more specifically directed to a pacifier strap clip, whereas Garrison, merely discloses a molded plastic garment hanger. Additionally, Garrison does not disclose a U-section having cooperating clamping regions as claimed in the present application; but rather, it discloses a front jaw 14 and a rear jaw 15 which are integrally joined by a thin section forming a hinge 16. Consequently, Garrison merely discloses a non-analogous garment hanger that discloses a pair of hingely connected jaws provided with a thin pad of resilient thermoplastic rubber molded to the inner-surface of one or both of the garment gripping jaws.

Furthermore, Petrou merely discloses a plastic hanger having clips located at the opposite ends of the hanger. Petrou does not disclose the claimed U-shaped pacifier strap clip. Additionally, Petrou does not provide a clamping region consisting of material having a lower hardness than the material of the clamping parts, as claimed.

Consequently, because the combination of Garrison and Petrou only results in a hanger having a pair of clips located at opposite ends of the hanger, the claimed U-shaped pacifier strap comprising a fastening bracket for connecting a pacifier strap to the clip would not have been rendered obvious to one skilled in the art. Therefore, the Applicant considers that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose the claimed invention, and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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